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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Activities at Wonsan

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The oil refinery at Wonsan is headed by a Soviet, name unknown. The plant imports kerosene from Karafuto and refines it into gasoline. The amount of importation and of finished production is not known, but the gasoline is used to service vehicles in the area, and these increased greatly in number between March 1949 and March 1950. One of the oil tanks at the plant exploded in the fall of 1949. Sabotage was suspected, but no one was caught.
2. In March 1950, the Wonsan shipyard began building large naval patrol vessels. Three large armed patrol craft, Model B, 36 meters long, were built during 1949. Since then, the yard has been building wooden vessels in secret for navy work.
3. Two Soviet transports called at the port of Wonsan in late February and unloaded a cargo which local rumor conjectured was gasoline and arms. These commodities were exchanged for a thousand tons of polished rice stored in the port warehouse and a quantity of cement. The vessels left at the end of February.
4. Soviet technical personnel stationed at Wonsan advised the building of a new dock for the shipyard, sufficient for 3,000-ton vessels. The Korean authorities accepted the idea and announced that they would undertake the project. The new dock begun at the end of March 1950, however, appeared from the scale of the construction work to be barely large enough for 1,000-ton ships. The authorities continued to announce that it would accommodate 3,000 ton sizes.
5. The North Korean government in April drew up plans for construction of a new pier between a village on the coast twenty-five kilometers from Wonsan Station and the Minpyong (127-22, 39-14) petroleum factory. Work was scheduled to begin in May and to require two years for completion. Cement for the project is to be supplied from the Musan (129-10, 42-10) plant, stones from the neighboring hills, and labor from mobilization of local residents.

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CLASSIFICATION

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